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**Sen. Birkholz issues statement on governor's veto of funding for
E.coli testing on Lake Michigan beaches**

LANSING – Sen. Patty Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township, issued the following statement after learning the governor vetoed \$25,000 from the Department of Environmental Quality budget that would have gone toward water-quality testing for E.coli and other diseases at public Lake Michigan beaches in Allegan, Ottawa and Van Buren counties:

“The governor’s veto seriously endangers the lives of Michigan’s most vulnerable citizens – our seniors and our children. It also demonstrates disregard of the environment and public safety. We have a trained network of volunteers who are trying to protect our waters from contamination. This funding, which is not available from other sources, would have allowed them to conduct testing during the summer peak swimming season. Now the important work of protecting public health on our beaches in the summer of 2005 cannot be accomplished.”

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